



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New England District

Update Report for Connecticut



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Mission

The missions of the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers include flood prevention and control, emergency response for natural disasters and national emergencies, environmental remediation and restoration, natural resource management, stream bank and shoreline protection, navigation maintenance and improvement, support to military facilities and installations, and engineering and construction support to other federal agencies. The six New England states cover 66,000 square miles, with 6,100 miles of coastline, 11 deep water ports, 102 recreational and small commercial harbors, 13 major river basins, and thousands of miles of navigable rivers and streams. The district operates and maintains 31 dams, 2 hurricane barriers and the Cape Cod Canal. We employ about 550 professional civilian employees, with about 400 stationed at our headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts. Other Corps of Engineers employees serve at Corps projects and offices throughout the region.

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Navigation

CLINTON HARBOR (3rd CD) – *On June 9, 2000, we received approvals to dredge the entrance channel to Clinton Harbor through June 15. Dredging started on the afternoon of June 9 and, following a two-day extension of the environmental window, was completed on June 17, 2000. The Government dredge CURRITUCK conducted the work, removing about 20,000 cubic yards of sand and disposing of it at a nearshore site off Hammock Point.*

CONNECTICUT RIVER (1st, 2nd & 3rd CDs) – The federal navigation project includes a 15-foot-deep channel from the mouth of the river to Hartford. Pilots have expressed concerns about shoaling at various bars and shoals on the river. As a result of a meeting held with the pilots and others, it was agreed that Pistol Point Bar, near Cromwell, was the area of critical concern to the pilots and that an attempt would be made to expedite maintenance dredging of this bar while continuing the preliminary work necessary for maintaining other areas along the river.

Testing of material in Pistol Point Bar has been completed and evaluated. Unexpectedly high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the material

raise questions as to its suitability for in-river disposal. To resolve those questions, further testing is scheduled to start early in August 2000, with a suitability determination by early December 2000. If the material is found to be suitable for in-river disposal, we will seek appropriate federal and state approvals. If not, we will work with state agencies and others to identify suitable options for dredging and dredged material disposal. Upland disposal is more restrictive and generally more difficult to obtain.

At various other areas along the river where river pilots have also identified a need for dredging, physical and chemical testing is underway. We anticipate test results for material from those areas to be available by early July 2000. The test results will be verified and the suitability of the material for disposal will be coordinated with other federal agencies. Additional testing will be provided if necessary. The testing information testing would be used to develop a proposal for dredging and dredged material disposal for other areas of concern, which will be coordinated with state and federal resource agencies and the public. Our objective is to implement the work at the earliest time possible, consistent with the availability of necessary approvals.

Flood Damage Prevention

HARBOR BROOK, MERIDEN (5th CD) – The New England District has completed a reconnaissance inves-

tigation Corps involvement in providing flood control improvements along Harbor Brook and found the level of

flood damages that could occur along the brook, compared against flood control costs developed by the city, indicate that elements of the city's flood control plan are economically justified. *Based on these positive results, detailed feasibility studies have been approved. The State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, has indicated a desire to act as the sponsor and will share in costs over the initial federally-funded \$100,000 on a 50-50 basis. A feasibility cost sharing agreement, outlining the scope of additional investigations, is currently under negotiation.*

MORRIS COVE, NEW HAVEN (3rd CD) – Costs to perform a feasibility study to reduce storm and hurricane damage at Morris Cove in New Haven were developed, and a letter with attached Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and Project Study Plan was sent to the sponsor, the City of New Haven. A preliminary positive benefit/cost ratio has been determined. Initial assessment is for the construction of a stone or grid block revetment in front of an existing seawall, although other options will be considered. The seawall is presently being undermined, and up to eighteen homes behind the seawall may be subject to damage. *We are currently negotiating the final study scope of work and schedule. The study will start as soon as we receive concurrence from the local sponsor and will cost \$125,000 federal and \$25,000 nonfederal.*

POINT BEACH, MILFORD (3rd CD) - A feasibility study for raising flood-prone houses in low areas adjacent to Point Beach was completed in 1994. The Chief of Engineers approved a plan to raise 58 houses, and bids were opened in February 1997. However, the bids were rejected because they significantly exceeded the gov-

ernment estimate. At the request of the nonfederal sponsor, bids were resolicited for a smaller contract but rejected again due to excessive costs obtained. *In March 2000, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (Conn. DEP) and the City of Milford indicated a willingness to rebid the project under new cost-sharing regulations allowing for a \$3,000,000 federal funding limit. The New England District will coordinate with the homeowners to determine their level of interest in moving forward and amend the Project Cooperation Agreement with Conn. DEP.*

SALMON RIVER, HADDAM, EAST HADDAM AND EAST HAMPTON, CT (1st and 2nd CD) – A scope of work and cost estimate to perform a feasibility study for flood control on the Salmon River in Haddam, East Haddam, and East Hampton were completed and provided to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP). The estimated cost of the feasibility study is \$215,000, and the CT DEP will act as the nonfederal sponsor. *The project is being cost shared 50/50 after the first \$100,000, and the Feasibility Study started in June 2000. Initial assessment is for the construction of a system of concrete piers just upstream of a dam to retain ice, which should prevent ice buildup with its associated flooding downstream. The Corps Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab is assisting the district.*

WOODMONT BEACH, MILFORD (3rd CD) - *The beach renourishment project to protect shoreline properties between Clinton and Bonsilene Streets was completed in May 2000 and involved placing 41,000 cubic yards of material.*

Planning Assistance

BRIDE BROOK WETLANDS STUDY (2nd CD) - The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the New England District are conducting a cost-shared study of the Bride Brook Coastal Wetland at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme. The Bride Brook Wetland has been identified as being a tidally-restricted wetland, with tidal flows entering the wetland at the south through twin culverts under a barrier beach. The twin culverts are to be replaced by the state in about five years. The investigation will identify alternatives for the replacement of the twin outlet pipes, using hydrologic modeling to determine the resulting effects upon tidal wetland habitat. *The final report will be available this summer.*

THAMES RIVER NAVIGATION ASSESSMENT STUDY (2nd CD) - *The Mohegan Nation and the New England District conducted an investigation for providing navigation access to the Mohegan Sun Resort in Uncasville. The study, initiated in 1998, determined the expected fleet size accessing the site; the location and dimensions of a navigation channel and/or mooring area; dredging quantities, costs, and disposal options; and an outline of the permitting process necessary for project implementation. The Mohegan Nation funded one half of the \$110,000 study. The study was completed in May 2000, and the final report was sent to the Mohegan Nation.*

Flood Plain Management Services

BLIND BROOK FLOOD ANALYSIS, DANBURY (5th CD) – *The Corps conducted a flooding analysis of the Blind Brook in Danbury at the request of the City of Danbury. Repeated flooding along Blind Brook has resulted in damage to both residential and commercial*

properties. The investigation determined that a combination of increased flood storage in several natural attenuation areas and increased conveyance of flows by modifying several culverts and the channel slope may help alleviate some of the flooding along this heavily

urbanized stream. *A final report was completed in May and provided to the City of Danbury.*

WESTPORT FLOOD PREVENTION INVESTIGATION (4th CD) – The Corps is conducting an analysis of flooding along the Saugatuck River, adjacent to Parker

Harding Plaza. This area contains over forty businesses that are subject to periodic flooding due to a combination of heavy rainfall and tidal surge. The study will suggest recommendations for preventing future flooding situations. *Preliminary results are available, and a final report will be completed by August 2000.*

Conservation & Environment

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (DERP) - This congressionally directed program (PL 98-212) provides for environmental restoration. It emphasizes the identification, investigation and cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste; unexploded ordnance; and unsafe buildings, structures and debris at current and former military facilities. Fifty-five formerly used Defense sites have been identified in Connecticut. Investigations at 54 sites are now complete, including 37 where no work was found to be necessary. The remaining site, the **University of Connecticut Bachelor Housing Site (2nd CD)**, will be studied in the future when priorities and funding allow.

Environmental restoration projects at Fort Griswold and Pine Island Battery, **Groton (2nd CD)**; Pratt & Whitney, **Southington (6th CD)**; and Fort Hale, **New Haven (3rd CD)** will be performed when priorities and funding allow.

A study to determine the responsible parties at the former Air Force Plant #62, **Middletown (2nd CD)** has been assigned to the Corps' Northwestern Division.

An archive search report under the Corps ordnance and explosive waste investigation program have been done for Rentschler and Brainard fields, **Hartford (1st CD)** by the Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, AL. No evidence has been found that ordnance still exists. Additional investigation is not warranted at this time.

Construction projects totalling \$1,373,434 have been completed at the following locations:

First District

Cromwell Nike Site, Tank Removal

East Windsor Nike Site, Tank and Transformer Removal

Manchester Nike Missile Site

Third District

New Haven Army Airfield, Transformer Removal

Fourth District

Fairfield Nike Site, Tank Removal & Silo Closure

Westport Nike Site, Tank Removal and Silo Closure

Fifth District

Ansonia Nike Site, Tank/Transformer Removal, Silo Closure

Waterbury Naval Reserve Rehab Center, Tank Removal

Sixth District

Bradley International Airport, Tank Removal

Farmington Nike Site, Tank Removal & Silo Closure

LONG ISLAND SOUND NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

The District is actively participating in the Long Island Sound National Estuary Program by attending meetings and providing water resource planning support and expertise. *A paper entitled "Remediation Techniques for Contaminated Sediment in Long Island Sound" has been provided to the Long Island Sound National Estuary Program for its use in decision making.*

Support to the Environmental Protection Agency

SUPERFUND ASSISTANCE - The New England District is designated as the Corps of Engineers' total support agency for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region I (New England) Superfund Program. This includes responsibility for providing technical assistance, real estate support, design services and construction management.

FERRY CREEK, STRATFORD (3rd CD) - The Corps is providing technical assistance for the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of Ferry Creek in Stratford. Contaminated materials from the Raymark site were used as fill along the creek and in wetlands along the Housatonic River. Contamination from the site also flowed through culverts to the creek and contaminated wetland areas. Currently, the Corps is reviewing and commenting on reports being developed for the RI/

FS. These reports will be used to support a cleanup strategy to be documented in EPA's Record of Decision, currently scheduled for January 2001.

HOUSATONIC BOAT CLUB/SHORE ROAD, STRATFORD (3rd CD)

– This site received fill from the Raymark Facility, and site soils have asbestos concentrations of up to 85%, as well as elevated levels of lead and PCBs. The New England District worked with the town, state and EPA to develop a strategy for temporary (3-5 year) stabilization of the site, pending long-term resolution of issues related to its permanent remediation. Temporary measures include replacing utilities, excavating and consolidating contaminated soil adjoining wetlands and the river, and capping of exposed contaminated soil with combinations of geotextile, stone and bituminous pavement. *Work on the \$1.4 million project is complete.*

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

During the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, work was performed at sites throughout the United States as part of the nation's early atomic energy program. The Department of Energy (DOE) began the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) in 1974 to study these sites and take appropriate cleanup action. Even though FUSRAP sites contain levels of radioactivity above current DOE guidelines, DOE found that none of the sites posed an immediate health risk to the public or the environment, given current land uses. The FY98 Energy and Water Appropriations Act transferred management of FUSRAP from DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There is only one FUSRAP site that is currently being managed by the New England District in Connecticut.

COMBUSTION ENGINEERING SITE, WINDSOR (1st CD) - The Combustion Engineering Site occupies approximately 600 acres in Windsor. The facility supplied components for reactor projects managed by the Atomic Energy Commission in the 1940s and 1950s. Initially,

the components did not involve nuclear materials, but in 1955, new contracts led to the use of uranium. In the early 1980s, radiological surveys detected radium and thorium contamination in three buildings, related drain-pipes and sewer lines, a waste storage pad area, a waste drum burial site, and a brook on the property. In 1986 Combustion Engineering conducted a cleanup of these areas, and a follow-up survey in 1989 indicated that the contamination had been reduced to levels that met established Nuclear Regulatory Commission guidelines. An additional survey conducted in 1993 indicated the need for further cleanup of these locations.

The New England District has completed an initial survey of the site and a comprehensive characterization of Building 3. *A comprehensive characterization of the remaining areas of concern was initiated in May and will carry into 2001.* The CERCLA process is being followed, and we are working to complete a Record of Decision by 2003. *The Corps will consider performing removal actions as the need arises and funds are made available.*

Regulatory Activities

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND STATISTICS - *At the end of February, there were 76 active applications for regulated work in Connecticut. During March, April, and May, 141 new applications were received. Final actions were taken on 153 applications, including five individual permits, 75 general permits, 18 not required, and no denials. The balance at the end of May was 64 active files.* The New England District routinely processes 95% of all permit applications in less than 60 days.

Department of the Army permits are required from the Corps of Engineers under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps reviews permit applications for work affecting navigable waters under our Section 10 authority and the discharge of fill material into all waters, including inland wetlands, under Section 404.

PROGRAMMATIC GENERAL PERMIT - The New England District has comprehensive Programmatic General Permits (PGPs) in place in each of the six New England states covering work with minimal impact on the aquatic environment. Up to 98% of all permits issued in New England are PGPs. The PGPs are based on the state thresholds for most categories of environmental impacts, and applicants generally need only file with the state. The federal screening is virtually transparent to applicants, and the PGP approval is either included in the state approval letter or mailed simultaneously. Applications appropriately covered under the PGPs are generally approved in under 30 days. Applicants have commented favorably about the simplicity, predictability and efficiency of the PGPs.

CONNECTICUT ROUTE 6 (2nd CD) - In November 1998, we agreed with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) that the upgrade of Route 6, as then proposed, was not a practicable alternative, in that it would not meet the project needs. This followed our earlier determination that DOT's preferred 133A alternative would not likely receive a permit. Conn. DOT still expects to pursue an expressway solution to address the transportation problems in the Route 6 corridor. The five interested towns (Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Manchester and Windham) sent letters to DOT requesting that it again pursue Alternative 133A with further modifications. In November 1999, DOT submitted an application for Alternative 133A modified which is currently being reviewed.

The DOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the federal resource agencies held a working group meeting in early February 2000. DOT and FHWA requested Corps input on additional needs to identify the least environmentally damaging practicable alternatives, as required by law. We indicated we needed additional information for alternatives 133 and 133/18-25 to compare impacts with the modified 133A plan for which the state had submitted an application. *This information is expected to be made available early this summer. The Corps will then issue a notice to solicit public comment and hold a public hearing. A decision on the least damaging practicable alternative is expected to be made in August/September 2000.*

CONNECTICUT ROUTE 11 (2nd CD) - DOT and the Federal Highway Administration are evaluating alterna-

tives for improvements to address safety and congestion in the Routes 82/85/11 corridors in the communities of **Salem, Montville, Waterford and East Lyme**. The towns prefer a new alignment that will complete the existing Route 11 expressway to an interstate connection with Route 95 in Waterford. During the hearings, the affected communities asked DOT to evaluate an arterial design, with a greenway corridor concept alongside, versus a full expressway. The corridor towns oppose any widening of Route 85 from two lanes to four lanes. EPA commented that the new location corridors would result in significant impacts to the aquatic ecosystem; however, it is willing to evaluate the merits of the greenway concept in concert with a commitment from the towns to implement an action plan for managed growth. In response, the towns and the area Council of Governments are developing such a plan.

The towns have indicated that a "sensitive" upgrade (two-lanes upgraded with safety improvements) designed to accommodate community development goals and objectives, would be the only acceptable improvement for Route 85. The DOT developed and provided the Corps with information on such an alternative in March 2000. The Corps has requested additional input from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding the merits of this upgrade and those evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with respect to meeting the transportation improvement purposes. *FHWA is reviewing existing technical and environmental impacts analyses and preparing a response to the Corps request for additional input.* The Corps will then determine the practicability of the upgrade/widening alternatives, and FHWA will prepare a Final EIS based on this determination.

Flood Control Projects

The New England District has constructed 12 flood control dams and three hurricane protection projects in Connecticut. Information on each is provided below.

BLACK ROCK LAKE (6th CD) on Branch Brook in Thomaston was completed in 1970 at a cost of \$8.2 million. More than 2.8 billion gallons of water can be stored behind the 933-foot-long, 154-foot-high dam. To date \$65 million in damages have been prevented. An estimated 61,000 visitors annually enjoy hiking, fishing and hunting on the 319 acres of land and water at Black Rock.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (6th CD) on the West Branch of the Farmington River in Colebrook was completed in 1969 at a cost of \$14.3 million. When full, the 1,300-foot-long, 223-foot-high dam can impound a lake of 1,618 acres or 16.5 billion gallons of water. To date, the project has prevented damages of \$37 million. Recreational opportunities abound at Colebrook, including boating (with a launching ramp), fishing, ice fishing, and hunting. Nearly 158,000 visitors enjoy the recreational pursuits at Colebrook each year.

EAST BRANCH DAM (6th CD) is situated on the East Branch of the Naugatuck River in Torrington. The 700-foot long, 92-foot-high earthfill dam was completed in 1964 at a cost of \$3.2 million. With a storage capacity of 1.4 billion gallons of water, the dam can impound a 158-acre lake. To date, more than \$10.5 million in damages have been prevented by East Branch Dam. The State of Connecticut is responsible for operation and maintenance of the 158-acre facility.

HALL MEADOW BROOK DAM (6th CD), located on the brook of the same name in Torrington, was completed in 1962 at a cost of \$3.9 million. The 1,200-foot-long, 73-foot-high earthfill dam can impound

a 372-acre lake capable of storing 2.8 billion gallons of water. The facility has prevented damages of \$9.6 million to date. The State of Connecticut is responsible for operation and maintenance of the 9.4 acre facility.

HANCOCK BROOK DAM (6th CD), on the brook of the same name, was constructed at a cost of \$4.2 million in Plymouth. The 630-foot-long, 57 foot high earthen dam can create a lake of 266 acres or 1.3 billion gallons of water. Since it was placed in operation in 1966, it has prevented \$29.8 million in flood damages. More than 6,000 visitors annually enjoy the hiking, fishing and hunting opportunities available at Hancock Brook's 721 acres of land and water.

HOP BROOK DAM (5th CD), situated on the brook of the same name in Waterbury, was completed in December 1968 at a cost of \$6.2 million. The 520-foot-long, 97-foot-high embankment can hold back 2.2 billion gallons of water in a 270-acre pool extending 1.5 miles. Hop Brook Lake has prevented damages amounting to \$31 million, nearly five times what it cost to construct. The year-round 21-acre conservation pool annually attracts nearly 217,000 visitors to enjoy a variety of recreational pursuits, including picnicking, swimming, hiking, fishing, and special permit group events.

The 940-foot-long, 178-foot-high **MAD RIVER DAM (6th CD)** is situated on the Mad River in Winchester. Construction for the \$7 million earthen dam was completed in 1963, and since that time the project has prevented an estimated \$2.7 million in damages. When full, the lake behind the dam covers 188 acres and can store more than three billion gallons of water. The State of Connecticut operates and maintains Mad River Dam.

MANSFIELD HOLLOW DAM (2nd CD), across the Natchaug River in Mansfield, was constructed at a cost

of \$6.4 million. The 14,050-foot-long, 78-foot-high dam can impound a 49,200-acre-foot reservoir which is equivalent to 16 billion gallons of water. Since it was placed in operation in 1952, it has prevented damages of \$43.2 million. The reservoir area offers fine recreational opportunities, including picnicking, fishing, boating, hunting, and nature study and annually attracts more than 463,000 visitors.

The 810-foot-long, 118-foot-high **NORTHFIELD BROOK DAM (6th CD)** was completed in October 1965 at a cost of \$12.4 million. Situated on Northfield Brook in Thomaston, the dam, which features an eight-acre recreation pool, can store an estimated 792 million gallons of flood water and has prevented damages to date of \$22.4 million. More than 66,000 visitors annually enjoy fishing, picnicking, swimming, and hiking at Northfield Brook.

SUCKER BROOK DAM (6th CD), on a brook of the same name in Winchester, was completed in 1970 at a cost of \$2.4 million. The 1,160-foot-long, 68-foot high earthen dam can impound a lake covering 53 acres and is capable of storing 482 million gallons of water. The State of Connecticut is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Sucker Brook Dam.

THOMASTON DAM (6th CD) is situated on the Naugatuck River in Thomaston. Completed in 1960 at a cost of \$14.3 million, the 2,000-foot-long, 142-foot-high earthen dam can impound a lake covering 960 acres capable of storing 13.7 billion gallons of water. Thomaston has prevented over \$242.3 million in flood damages. An estimated 100,000 visitors annually enjoy picnicking, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling at Thomaston Dam's more than 1,400 acres of land and water.

WEST THOMPSON LAKE (2nd CD) is located on the Quinebaug River in Thompson. Construction for the \$7 million facility was completed in 1965, and since that

time the facility has prevented nearly \$18.4 million in flood damages. The 2,550-foot-long, 70-foot-high dam can impound a 1,250-acre pool capable of storing 8.3 billion gallons of water. Picnicking, hiking, boating, fishing, camping, hunting and snowmobiling are enjoyed by over 90,000 visitors annually to the more than 2,000 acres of land and water at West Thompson.

At **NEW LONDON (2nd CD)** work to provide hurricane protection to the Shaw Cove area of this northern Long Island Sound community was completed in 1984 at a cost of \$11 million. The project provides protection against tidal flooding in the industrial and commercial area in the vicinity of Shaw Cove and New London Harbor. Rock protected earthfill dikes, concrete flood walls, a pumping station and a pressure conduit to evacuate interior drainage are features of the project. In a storm of the magnitude of the 1938 hurricane, New London would afford \$9.6 million in damage prevention.

In Stonington, the **PAWCATUCK-STONINGTON HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT (2nd CD)** is located on the West Bank of the Pawcatuck River at the Rhode Island-Connecticut state line. The \$920,000 project was completed in 1963. The project consists of 1,915 feet of earth dike, 940 feet of concrete wall, two vehicular structures, and a pumping station. The works afford protection to a 31-acre industrial area and are operated and maintained by the town of Stonington.

Construction of the **STAMFORD HURRICANE PROTECTION BARRIER (4th CD)** at Stamford was completed in 1969 at a cost of \$14.5 million. The 90-foot-wide navigation opening in a half-mile-long dike across the East Branch of Stamford Harbor is closed by a flap-type gate which is raised from the harbor floor on steel arms. Additional elements of the project provide protection to the West Branch of the harbor and Westcott Cove. Damages amounting to \$24.6 million have been prevented to date.

Recreation and Resource Management

The Corps of Engineers, working with agencies of the State of Connecticut, provides quality outdoor recreational opportunities at each of the seven flood control reservoirs located within the state. The lands and waters of these civil works water resource projects are managed to conserve the natural resources as well as for the primary authorized purpose of flood control.

WEST THOMPSON LAKE (2nd CD) - *Visitors to West Thompson Lake Campground will find many improvements this season. A new parking lot has been built and landscaping around the registration building added. Two new host sites accommodate an additional volunteer host couple this year. A new roof on the bathrooms and a new hiking trail were also completed just before opening.*

Additional projects that were completed as a result of Earth Day include clearing and marking the shoreline trail, installing footbridges and walking platforms along wet areas, and placing bird boxes to attract Bluebirds. Earth Day volunteers totaled 192 with a value of service equaling \$17,500. Many local businesses helped out by supplying food and water, building materials and labor.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (6th CD) - *The 250th Engineer Co., Connecticut Army National Guard, conducted training at the reservoir June 19-20th. Exercises included use of blank ammunition and air landings; the unit also bivouacked in the upper end of the reservoir.*

N.B.S. Bassmasters of Salem, Conn., conducted a bass fishing tournament on the lake on April 29th. About ten boats participated, with black bass the primary target.

Also at Colebrook Lake, the Conn. Bicycle Racing Association (CBRA) again held the annual time trials event on June 17th. This year CBRA was selected to run the North Atlantic Regional Championships.

HOP BROOK LAKE (5th CD) - *The New Haven Boys and Girls Club will again conduct its annual day camp trips to the recreation area on several dates in July and August. The club anticipates that approximately 70 youngsters, eight counselors and one lifeguard will participate. Also, the Royal Rangers, Southwest Section, Southern New England District, will sponsor a*

Sports Day in the park area on October 28th. About 125 boys and adults are expected to participate.

THOMASTON DAM (6th CD) - *Boy Scout Troop 53 of Thomaston held a campout and volunteer project at the reservoir on the weekend of April 29-30th. Cub Pack 58 of New Milford held a similar event there during the Memorial Day weekend. A total of approximately 46 scouts and adults participated in the two events.*

Also, the Pathfinders Motorcycle Club, Inc., of Bethany held its annual Junior Enduro and Hare Scrambles trailbike event on the designated area of the west side of the reservoir the weekend of June 17-18th. Several hundred riders in various skill and age groups and family and spectators participated or attended the event.

Special Studies

COASTAL AMERICA - Coastal America is an inter-agency partnership aimed at coastal resources restoration. The New England District serves as chair of the Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT) of Coastal America. The NERIT has focused its efforts on habitat restoration and, in particular, restoration of tidally constricted salt marshes. An interagency Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to formally document the Coastal America partners' commitment to salt marsh restoration. The Corps and other agencies are now evaluating restoration projects at over 300 identified sites nationwide.

FAULKNER ISLAND (3rd CD) - Section 527 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 authorized the design and construction of shoreline protection measures for the coastline of Faulkner Island adjacent to the lighthouse. The island is located three miles off the coast of Guilford and is part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. *The Corps of Engineers worked closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Connecticut to insure that the rock revetment protection measures would be compatible with the endangered Roseate Terns that occupy the island from May through August.* The project has been broken into two construction phases to allow for an interim assessment of impacts on the nesting Roseate Terns. *Bids for the first phase have been received and are being evaluated.* Construction is scheduled to start at the beginning of the environmental window in September 2000.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (2ND, 3RD & 4TH CDS) - The Corps conducted an ecosystem reconnaissance for the coastal Connecticut area as the

basis for a feasibility study approved by Corps headquarters. Several types of ecosystem restoration projects were identified, including coastal wetland restoration and restoration of riverine migratory corridors for anadromous fish. The Corps worked with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to prepare a scope of work and cost estimate for the feasibility study of identified sites. The Corps submitted the feasibility project study plan and cost estimate to CT DEP in March 1999. However, the CT DEP was unwilling to cost-share the study at that time. The study scope was decreased at the request of the CT DEP to fish passage on the Norwalk River. The Corps and the CT DEP continue to work on executing a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement.

LONG ISLAND SOUND DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE DESIGNATION EIS (2nd, 3rd & 4th CDs) - The New England District, in cooperation with the New York District and EPA Regions I and II, is conducting an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of dredged material management practices in Long Island Sound, with a view towards designating one or more open water dredged material disposal sites in the Sound in accordance with the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act. The States of Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island are participating in the study. Field investigations for the EIS began in January 2000 and will continue through the spring of 2001. Public involvement efforts began in July 1999 and will continue throughout the study. A draft EIS is scheduled for public review in June 2001, with a final EIS and site management plans to follow in December 2001. Final site designation by EPA would occur in March 2002, if any open water sites are identified by the EIS.